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INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 009758

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/22/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [IZ](#) [CH](#)  
SUBJECT: PRC/IRAQ: RESPONSE TO SEEKING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR  
IRAQI GOVERNMENT FORMATION COMPLETION

REF: STATE 81632

Classified By: Political External Unit Chief Edgard Kagan. Reasons 1.4  
(b/d)

(C) The PRC will issue an official statement congratulating the Iraqi people on completing the process of forming their new government, MFA West Asian and North African Department officer Wu Xiaofeng stated May 22 in response to reftel points. Wu said the statement will be posted on the MFA's website and that Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will send congratulatory letters to their respective Iraqi counterparts. Beijing hopes the formation of the new Iraqi government will improve bilateral relations between China and Iraq. Now that the new government has been formed, Beijing is considering restarting high-level exchanges with Iraq, according to Wu. However, in response to poloff's question, Wu stated that the MFA has not had contact with the Iraqi Embassy in Beijing regarding the formation of the new government. The MFA had not posted the congratulatory statement on its website as of close of business May 22. The next regularly scheduled press conference is on May 23.  
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